

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the sub-heading before paragraph [0001] and add the following new sub-headings and paragraph:

-- PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP2003/06619, filed on 24 June 2003. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) is claimed from German Application No. 102 28 870.4, filed 27 June 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention --

Please add before paragraph [0002] the following new sub-heading:

-- 2. Description of the Related Art --

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] A drive device of this type is known from [~~DE 198 22 498 A1~~] U.S. Patent No. 6,412,224, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. This known drive device calls for improvement, [~~however,~~] especially with respect to the materials from which the individual parts are made.

Please add before paragraph [0003] the following new sub-heading:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please delete paragraph [0006] in entirety.

Please add before paragraph [0015] the following new sub-heading:

-- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** --

Please add before paragraph [0016] the following new sub-heading:

-- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** --

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The piston 3 is provided with a ~~[set of teeth (not shown), which mesh]~~ toothed rack which meshes with a pinion 6 on the closing shaft 4. This has the result that a displacement of the piston 3 in the longitudinal direction of the housing 1 produces a rotational movement of the closing shaft 4.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The ~~[set of teeth]~~ rack on the piston 3 is preferably formed as an inlay of metal, e.g., steel. This inlay is embedded in the plastic during the injection-molding of the piston 3.

Please delete paragraph [0024] in entirety.

Please add at page 5, after the heading, the following sub-heading:

-- What is claimed is --